

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the Application, with claims 6-10 being withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 is amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance in view of the further amendment and the following remarks.

As explained in the previous submissions, according to the invention, exfoliation of the nanoparticles does not need to be as complete as the references of record require. Consistent with that greater "tolerance" for larger particles, Applicant has amended the Application to specify that at least some of the reinforcing particles are about 30 layers thick, which is attributable to those particles not being completely exfoliated. None of the references of record teach or suggest particles of that size as being permissible.

Applicant respectfully submits that the further limitation is implicitly supported by the specification as originally filed and the other claim limitations, which recite that at least 99% of the reinforcing particles are less than about 30 layers thick. In other words, because it is not required that 100% of the reinforcing particles be less than about 30 layers thick, some of the reinforcing particles will be about 30 layers thick. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the present Amendment, and reconsideration and allowance of the Application.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K M Fagin', with a large circular flourish at the end.

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